



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boat Hoist at Gaviota State Park Reopens

GOLETA - California State Parks announced today that the boat hoist at Gaviota State Park is now open for public use on a limited basis, Thursdays through Sundays, following an extensive overhaul and upgrade of the popular facility. Hours of operation will be 7:30 a.m. to approximately 7 p.m., depending on ocean conditions. Launching and retrieval of vessels will be done by State Park staff or volunteers during an initial trial period while they conduct an evaluation of the new hoist's operation.

Classes to train boaters to operate the hoist will be held following this evaluation period. Boaters who successfully complete one of the classes and whose boat and equipment pass a safety inspection will be issued a card that will allow them to use the hoist seven days a week when the park is open. California State Parks will announce the schedule of classes by mid-August.

The new hoist features a two-speed motor that allows boaters to raise and lower their boats at a faster rate than was possible with the previous hoist, reducing the time a vessel is exposed to wave shock. Wave shock was identified in a 2005 engineering study as contributing to previous hoist failures. Additionally, if the hoist should require repairs in the future, down time will be reduced significantly, since replacement parts for the new American-made motor will not need to be shipped from Europe.

Boaters with access to email who have not taken advantage of the park's email notification service can sign up by sending an email to gaviotahoistupdate@hotmail.com. Once on the list, boaters will receive the latest updates on the hoist status as well as announcement of the schedule of training classes and how to sign up for them. For boaters without email, California State Parks maintains a recorded information line with current status of the hoist at 805.968.1033. Once the schedule of classes is determined, it will be added to the recorded information. Boaters without email access will be able to sign up for the training by regular mail.

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